

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 1 ~~23~~, wherein said ferrule is formed cylindrical, a plurality of fiber holes are formed and a pitch between adjoining fiber holes is set to less than 250  $\mu$ m.
3. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 1 ~~23~~, wherein a plurality of optical fibers are inserted in said at least one fiber hole.
4. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of optical fibers are inserted in said plurality of fiber holes.
5. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 1 ~~23~~, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.
6. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 2, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.
7. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 3, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.
8. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.
9. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.
10. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 7, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.

11. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

12. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

13. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 7, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

14. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim + 23, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

15. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 2, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

16. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 3, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

17. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 6, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

18. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule is provided with a disengagement stopper having at least one portion so formed as to have an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of said jacket.

19. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim + 23, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon.

20. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 2, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon, said step portion being parallel to a layout direction of said optical fibers.

21. (Presently Amended) The optical coupling module ~~multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon, said step portion being parallel to a layout direction of said optical fibers.

22. (Presently Amended) The coupling module ~~optical multiplexer/demultiplexer~~ according to claim 1 ~~23~~, wherein said ferrule is formed into a quadratic prism.

23. (New) An optical coupling module comprising:

at least one optical fiber for receiving or outputting light, said optical fiber having one end;

an optical element adapted to transmit light to or receive the light from the one end of said optical fiber; and

a ferrule made of a synthetic resin, for supporting the one end of said optical fiber, said ferrule including a body with two end faces, and at least one through hole formed in the body, the through hole extending between the two end faces and having a first end portion into which the one end of said optical fiber is received, and a second end portion being larger than the first end portion.

24. (New) The module according to claim 23, wherein said resin is one selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic epoxy resin, thermosetting polyphenylene sulfide, and engineering plastics having a low mold shrinkage of 0.1% or less obtained by allowing the former resins to contain at least 60% by weight of silica or metal oxide.

25. (New) The module according to claim 24, wherein said resin is transparent or semitransparent.

#### REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

#### Discussion of New Claim

The subject matter of new dependent claim 24 has support in the specification at, as non-limiting examples, the following locations: page 5, lines 28-33, Claim 1, and Figures 1-21. The